I. Course and Instructor

Format: Web

Instructor Information:

Name: Robert "Bob" Gilgulin
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Office Hours: I teach live classes all day, Wednesdays, and, afternoon to evening on Fridays. I am online available every other day, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

Course Information:

Course Title: Environmental Ethics	Synonym Number: 71435
Course Code: PHI 218 DS21	Credits: 3
Semester: Spring, 2013	Prerequisite: College-level reading
Start Date: 01/14/13	End Date: 05/03/13
Refund Date: 01/30/13	Withdraw Date: 04/07/13

Orientation Note:

We begin Monday, January 14 with introductions (graded: one point) to be submitted in "Discussions" no later than Tuesday, January 22. Please know that this participation is required, else you may be dropped from our course. After that please participate in discussions (graded: five points each) and quizzes (graded fifteen points each) every two weeks to correspond with the five modules that constitute our agenda.

On the title of our course: "Environmental Ethics." Let us always be aware of the possible tension between ***Environmental*** (which suggests empirical description and scientific analysis) and ***Ethics*** (which suggests philosophical analysis.)

On "Ethics." What should you bring to this course? Officially, the pre-requisite is "college-level reading." But that's just your ticket into this course. Even more important: ***open-mindedness***. Philosophy is located in the relation between you and your world, and investigates the notions of truth and reality. Ours is a philosophy course, and we will encounter ideas and themes that are novel and challenging, but only because we have not paid attention to them before. Whatever else philosophy does, it demands this: set aside your attitudes, opinions, feelings; challenge all beliefs that are not supported by argument and evidence. ***"Any belief not supported by evidence can be rejected without evidence."*** That is our creed.

On "Environment." Please prepare for some delicious readings with the intention to grasp our subject both historically and topically. And, remember: our goal is objective analysis, not emotional suasion.

Computer Access:
Online courses require frequent computer use and access to the internet. It is highly recommended that students have a personal computer for use in online courses. If you need to use a computer at your local Colorado Mountain College location, you will be able to do so during open lab hours. Please check with your local site for times. Labs will not be available for Collaborate web conferencing sessions, if included as part of your course, due to the verbal interaction involved.

If you have general questions about online learning, please contact **Colorado Mountain College Online Learning** at 800-621-8559, extension 8341 or virtual@coloradomtn.edu.

No-show reporting and financial aid: Please be sure to submit (in "Discussions") your introductory statement (graded: one point) which mentions your interest in environmental ethics. If you have not completed your introductory Discussion in Canvas by Tuesday, January 22nd you will be reported as a no-show and dropped from the course. The resultant loss in credit hours may cause a reduction and/or cancellation of your financial aid award. Neither financial aid awards nor class reinstatement can occur after this point without significant documented extenuating circumstances. If you have questions or concerns about this please contact your campus financial aid specialist. (**www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/financial_aid**)

II. Course Description:

Critically analyzes theories of value of the natural world. Topics include the relation between scientific and moral principles; theories of the moral worth of persons, animals, plants and other natural objects; historical, religious and cultural influences on conceptions of nature; alternative accounts of human relationships and responsibilities to nature, including deep ecology and eco-feminism; and the connection between moral and political values and economic policies.

III. Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:

STANDARD COMPETENCIES:

I. Define and explain various traditional ethical theories.
II. Define and explain various cultural, philosophical and religious perspectives on the environment.
III. Analyze and evaluate the connections between science and technology and issues in environmental ethics.
IV. Articulate and analyze important environmental issues.
V. Analyze environmental issues by applying ethical theories and other cultural and religious perspectives.
VI. Evaluate the effectiveness of various ethical theories in dealing with particular environmental issues.
VII. Argue effectively about ethical issues in the environment.
VIII. Analyze various types of environmental activism from an ethical perspective.

IV. IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
3. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.).

V. Methods and Class Management:

Assignments: Quizzes, and discussions for grade. (Voluntary) essays for extra credit.

a) Every two weeks submit a short answer quiz; begins immediately after Week One (Introductions.) Six quizzes; drop your lowest grade;15 points each, for a total of 75 points. Late submissions are grade penalized.
b) Every two weeks participate in a new online discussion to earn as much as 5 points each; five discussions, possible 25 points. Discussions remain open past their two week period; however, late submissions are grade penalized.
c) One hundred possible points. Earn ninety to one hundred points: "A"; eighty to eighty-nine points: "B," etc.
d) Be sure to participate in discussion, or submit work by January 22, else you may be dropped from our class.
e) Please submit all work on Canvas (Information about Canvas: please see below.)
f) No work can be accepted after our last class, May 3, 2013, midnight. Exceptions to this rule are logistically impossible.
g) Work submitted late will be grade-penalized.
h) Please be prepared between classes to engage audio/visual materials online. Please note specific web addresses announced in Canvas.
i) Please consult final entry of this syllabus for posting of week by week agenda.

Detailed Grading Scale:

*Earn points by submitting **quizzes**, and, by participating in **discussions**.
*Opportunity to improve your grade: submit 500-word essay on any topic advertised under our **five modules (see below, Class Schedule, beginning with "Moments to Savor"),** or on a topic agreed upon by you and I.

Quizzes

*After the second week of classes, starting Monday, January 28, six **biweekly** (every two weeks) **quizzes**, and worth fifteen points each. Drop your lowest scoring quiz; five quizzes remain; at fifteen points each, you can earn as much as seventy-five points in quizzes.

***Quizzes** are short answer, combination of multiple choice, and, "True/False". All quizzes worth up to fifteen points.

***Quizzes** submitted late are grade-penalized.

Discussions

*__Discussions__ are posted Mondays, every two weeks of the semester. Discussions can earn as much as five points each.

*Biweekly **discussions** open every other Monday, remain open and work accepted, but are grade-penalized if submitted late.

*__Discussion__ topic posted every other Monday. The purpose of your discussion comments is to demonstrate your understanding of that week's topic.

*As we gain, week by week, an understanding of major themes, figures, and history of environmental ethics, **discussion** topics will slowly become more subtle. We begin with just this: for one point, introduce yourself and tell us about your interest in environmentalism.

GR	Score	PT	GR	Score	PT	GR	Score	PT	GR	Score	PT	GR	Score
			B+	87-89	3.3	C+	77-79	2.3	D+	67-69	1.3		
A	93-100	4.0	B	83-86	3.0	C	73-76	2.0	D	63-66	1.0	Fail	59-0
A-	90-92	3.7	B-	80-82	2.7	C-	70-72	1.7	D-	60-62	0.7		

Other grading symbols:

Grade	Definition	Grade	Definition
W	Withdrawal	P/F	Pass/Fail
AW	Administrative Withdrawal	I	Incomplete
AU	Audit	NG	No Grade Assigned

Quizzes, seventy-five points; **Discussions**, twenty-five points = one hundred points.

NOTICE:

A student judged to have engaged in academic misconduct as defined in the "Academic Policies and Requirements" section of the Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook will, at a minimum, receive a "zero" for the work in question. The student may also be removed from the class, resulting in a failing grade. All student course material may be submitted to Turnitin (or another anti-plagiarism program) at the instructor's discretion. "Academic Expectations," the "Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Process" and more information about academic misconduct can be found in the Student Handbook, online version at: **www.coloradomtn.edu/File/student_handbook.pdf.**

Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required.

The instructor may alter any, or all, of this syllabus during the semester as the learning environment requires. Students will be notified of changes in the Canvas course shell.

If you have a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and feel you may need classroom accommodations based on the impact of your disability, please contact the Disability Services Coordinator on your campus.

- Edwards and Steamboat Springs: Deb Farmer at 970-870-4450
- Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs (including Spring Valley), and Rifle: Dr. Anne Moll at 970-947-8256
- Breckenridge, Dillon, Leadville, and Chaffee County: Sandi Conner at 719-486-4200

Students wishing to withdraw from this course must INITIATE the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office.

This class could be cancelled one week prior to the census date if a sufficient number of students are not enrolled by that date.

IV. Grading System & Options:

Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. You will receive a grade report for current semester courses at the end of each term. This grade report is mailed to your permanent mailing address. Reports are mailed approximately two weeks after the end of the academic term. Additional information is available at:
http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=620#Grading_System_and_Options_

V. Required Course Materials

Text: "Environmental Ethics; What Really Matters, What Really Works."
Schmidtz and Willott, eds. 2nd edition. Oxford Univ. Press.
ISBN 978-0-19-979351-8.

Ordering Books
Colorado Mountain College has chosen to partner with Follett Virtual Bookstores to operate textbook services. You will find the official textbook list at **www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com**. If you ever have any online bookstore questions, you can email coloradomtn@fvb.follett.com or call 800-621-4088.

Students can sell back books anytime online or in-person at Follett's CMC buyback events. Sign up for the online store's email list at **www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email** for more information on future buyback dates/times and to receive other important messages from Follett.

Ordering Textbooks with Financial Aid:
Students wishing to use their Financial Aid to purchase their textbooks from the Colorado Mountain College Online Bookstore (Follett) may be set up with a *CMC Flex Pay account*. Contact your local CMC Accounts Manager for instructions and your specific username and password information. If you are not close to a CMC site contact CMC Online Learning at 970-947-8341 or virtual@coloradomtn.edu.

VI. Other Information:

A variety of selected readings will be posted in "Assignments," "Announcements" and "Pages." Together with assigned text readings, this material will provoke our

discussions.

Important note: Class will do more than review the text - we will go beyond the text, perhaps, at times, argue with the text; we certainly will discuss your (and my) questions and comments that are inspired by both the text, selected non-text readings ***and class discussion.***

For students wishing to make an early start: Please watch: Youtube, Satish Kumar, "Beyond Deep Ecology," and Satish Kumar, "Soil, Soul & Society."

Canvas

Canvas by Instructure is the online learning management system (LMS) used by Colorado Mountain College. You access Canvas via your web browser, i.e.: Mozilla/Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, etc. Students, faculty and staff members use the CMC Canvas site to access course announcements, documents, research links and library resources, to receive and deliver completed assignments, take tests, and to communicate with each other via email, discussion boards and chat.

For instructions on How to Access your Canvas Account, Canvas How To's, and who to contact for all your Canvas questions and support needs, please visit: **www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/faq-for-students**.

Student Email

All CMC students enrolled in a credit-based class (0.5 hour credit class or more) will be assigned a CMC student email address through Google mail (Gmail). Please allow at least 48 hours after you register for this account to be activated. For more information on your CMC student email account, please visit the Student page of the MyCMC Portal: **mycmc.coloradomtn.edu**.

A Few Words About Microsoft Word

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing program for the majority of CMC instructors. Students without Microsoft Word may use the free software from **www.OpenOffice.org** to create Word-compatible documents. The program also includes spreadsheet, presentation, drawing, and database applications. The program is available for Windows, Macintosh, or Linux operating systems. Microsoft Word is installed on computers available in computer labs at CMC locations.

Virtual Library Information

http://library.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?pid=349163&sid=2891178

The Virtual Library has its doors open 24/7, providing access to thousands of online journals and newspapers, books and art images, downloadable videos and audio books, career resources and practice tests.

If you need help with the Virtual Library, email reference@coloradomtn.edu or call us at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.

Colorado Mountain College Online Learning

Information is available at: **www.coloradomtn.edu/online_learning/.**